

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A removable covering for a supporting surface, said covering comprising

(a) a plurality of sticks arranged adjacent to each other to form a sheet; and

(b) a plurality of binding strings linking the adjacent sticks together, the binding strings arranged in pairs with each string of each pair passing alternately above and below adjacent sticks but opposite the remaining string of the pair, wherein a knot at the end of each string secures it to the sheet of sticks and an excess of the string beyond the knot provides a means for forming a linking knot tying adjacent sheets of sticks together, forming a larger unified sheet of sticks for covering a supporting surface, and wherein the sheet of sticks can be rolled up or folded up for storage when not in use on the supporting surface.

2. (Original) The covering as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sticks comprise bamboo sticks.

3. (Original) The covering as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sticks comprise wood sticks.

4. (Original) The covering as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sticks comprise plastic sticks.

5. (Withdrawn) A removable covering for a supporting surface, said covering comprising

(a) a plurality of sticks arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a sheet

- having a first stick and a last stick at respective extremities of the sticks;
- (b) at least one slat arranged adjacent and parallel to each of said first stick and said last stick; and
- (c) a plurality of binding strings linking said adjacent sticks and slats together, wherein a knot at the end of each string secures it to the sheet of sticks and slats wherein the sheet of sticks can be rolled up or folded up for storage or transport.

6. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 5, wherein said sticks and slats comprise bamboo sticks and slats.

7. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 5, wherein said sticks and slats comprise wood sticks and slats.

8. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 5, wherein said sticks and slats comprise plastic sticks and slats.

9. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 5, wherein linking strings comprise an excess of the string beyond each slat that provides a means for tying adjacent sheets of sticks together, forming a larger unified sheet of sticks for covering a supporting surface.

10. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 9, further including:

a plurality of linking tabs attached to said linking strings;

a plurality of linking loops, wherein said a plurality linking strings are tied to form said loops, wherein said loops are configured to receive respective tabs from an adjacent covering, thereby forming a larger linked covering.

11. (Withdrawn) A removable covering for a supporting surface, said covering comprising

(a) a plurality of sticks arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a sheet

- having a first stick and a last stick at respective extremities of the sticks; and
- (b) at least one linking slat arranged adjacent and parallel to each of said first stick and said last stick, wherein each linking slat is configured with a slot and an extension, each slot configured to receive an extension of an adjacent covering, thereby linking the adjacent covering and forming a larger linked covering and, wherein the covering can be rolled up or folded up for storage or transport.

12. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sticks and said linking slats comprise bamboo sticks and slats.

13. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sticks and said linking slats comprise wood sticks and slats.

14. (Withdrawn) The covering as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sticks and said linking slats comprise plastic sticks and slats.

15. (Previously presented) The covering as set forth in claim 1, including:

at least two of said sheets, each sheet placed adjacent to the remaining sheets;  
and

at least two linking knots between adjacent sheets formed by selectively tying said excess of the string in each sheet to at least one of a stick in an adjacent sheet, a selected string in the adjacent sheet, and a selected excess of the string in the adjacent sheet.

16. (Previously presented) The covering as set forth in claim 15 wherein said sticks comprise bamboo sticks.

17. (Previously presented) The covering as set forth in claim 15, wherein said sticks comprise wood sticks.

18. (Previously presented) The covering as set forth in claim 15, wherein said sticks comprise plastic sticks.